

It is my pleasure to speak to you today. Scottish-Americans have played a key role in the development of the United States.

Contributions in politics, economics, government and science made by Scottish-Americans have led to the success America enjoys today.

Many of the United States' first leaders were Scots, and their imprint on American society is undeniable.

"Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood." – President Woodrow Wilson

With this history in mind, I am convinced that Scotland's influence upon the United States is permanent. And for this reason I am a proud Co-Chairman of the Friends of Scotland Caucus.

Congressman McIntyre and I decided to form the Friends of Scotland Caucus to bring awareness of Scottish-American's achievements and the wonderful relationship the United States and Scotland share.

The caucus also promotes links between Scotland and the United States through encouraging dialogue between Members of Congress and Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Back in June of this year, the caucus sponsored a reception for British Home Secretary John Reid to discuss counter-terrorism, global security and to gain insight into the then upcoming Gordon Brown administration.

To date, the Friends of Scotland Caucus has a bi-partisan membership base which consists of 40 members of the U.S. House from over 25 different states.

I would like to see this great caucus grow with the help of the British Embassy, the National Capital Tartan Day Committee and the wonderful St. Andrew's Day Society of Washington.

"In God We Trust" would not be on the U.S. coinage if it was not for James Pollock, who was of Scottish descent.

King Duncan I was immortalized in the famous tragedy, Macbeth by William Shakespeare. King Duncan II has the oldest Scottish royal charter that dates from his reign.

The Scots brought with them their religion of Presbyterianism when then moved to America. The Presbyterian Church is one of the largest mainstream Protestant churches in the U.S. with over 3 million members.

Tennessee has the 17th highest number of Scottish-Americans with 103,325 residing in the state.

My home county Knox County and my home town, Knoxville, were both named after General Henry Knox, who served as the first Secretary of War under President George Washington and was of Scottish descent.

Knoxville is the county seat and the home of Tennessee's flagship university, the University of Tennessee – Knoxville.

Tennessee has been the home state of many Scotch-Irish who have left their mark on America.

Tennessee native and former Secretary of State under President Franklin Roosevelt, Cordell Hull was of Scottish decent.

President Andrew Jackson, who hailed from Tennessee, was the first President to come from outside the Thirteen Colonies and was outspoken as an outsider against the establishment of Washington.

Some other notable Scotch-Irish Tennesseans are Sam Houston and Davy Crockett.

Thank you for having me here to speak tonight. I am looking forward to Tartan Day 2008 as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Tartan Day resolution on Capitol Hill.

